＋カバーイラスト——清水玲子　＋カバーデザイン——羽良多平吉&エディックス

東京都生まれ。
昭和58年、月刊『ララ』2月大増刊号「二叉路物語（ストーリー）」でデビュー。
秀麗な画風と、独創的でメッセージ性の強い作品世界、多彩なキャラクター設定などで多くの読者の支持を得て、月刊『ララ』を中心に活躍中。
代表作に『ミルキーウェイ』『竜の眠る星』『月の子-MOON CHILD-』『輝夜姫（かぐやひめ）』など。
画集に『ARIA』『WALTZ』がある。

22XX

エックス エックス

Reiko Shimizu

清水玲子

-2-13

22XX
エックス エックス
清水玲子

白泉社文庫
◆619

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22XX（エックス エックス）

ヒト型ロボット・ジャックは、人間同様の食欲を感じることに辛さを覚えていた。王女誘拐犯を追うジャックは、密林の中でルピィという少女に出会う。昼は可憐な少女、夜は美女へと変身し誘惑してくるルピィに戸惑うジャック…。彼女は食事を神聖な儀式として人肉を食するフォトゥリス人だった。表題作「２２ＸＸ」を始め、「世紀末に愛されて」「夢のつづき」「８月の長い夜」「ロボット考（凝態）」を収録した異色＆衝撃のヒューマンＳＦ傑作選。

白泉社文庫（好評既刊より）

清水玲子の本

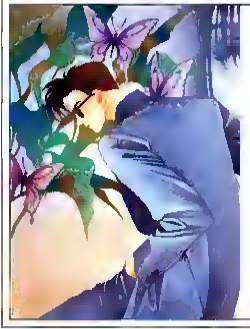
月の子 MOON CHILD 全8巻
竜の眠る星 全2巻
ミルキーウェイ／天使たちの進化論
22XX／パヒヨン

JETS COMICS

ナマケモノのスキューバダイビング
秘密 トップ・シークレット 1巻
画集・ARIA／WALTZ
カードギャラリースペシャル月の子
ミラクル・タロット

最新刊

パタリロ！32・33	魔夜峰央
ツーリング・エクスプレス 12	河惣益巳
赤ちゃんと僕 5・6	羅川真里茂
天使禁猟区 1・2	由貴香織里
なずなよなずな	大島弓子
D班レポート	坂田靖子
カトレアな女達	松苗あけみ
卓球戦隊ぴんぽん5	桑田乃梨子



22XX ……by Reiko Shimizu……

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Reiko SHIMIZU
清水玲子

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清水玲子

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2
X
X

"You have
just dined,
and however
scrupulously
the slaughter-
house is
concealed in
the graceful
distance of
miles, there
is complicity,
expensive
races – race
living at the
expense
of race "

~Ralph Waldo
Emerson

["The Cause of
Death, Prions" by
Richard Rhodes
published by
Soushisha]*

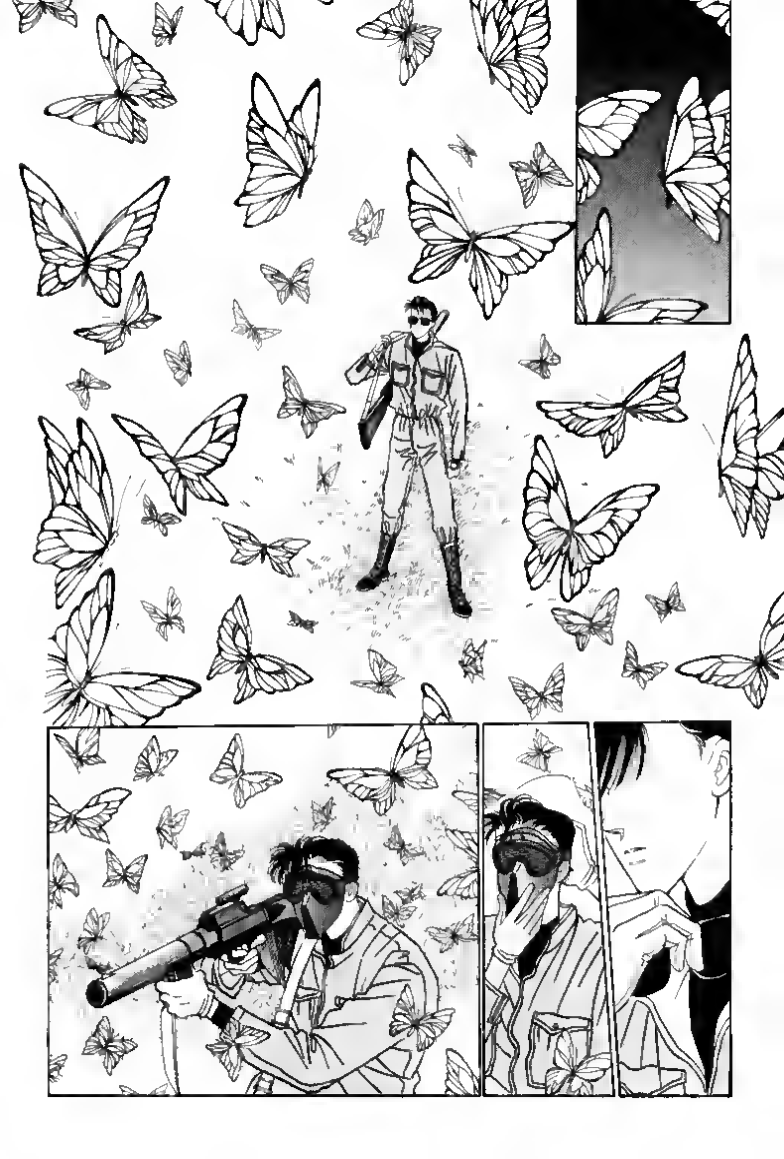
*Trans note The real English title is "Deadly Feasts Tracking the Secrets of a Terrifying New Plague "

MENUET, THE 11TH PLANET OF CYGNUS*.

EXCEPT FOR THE REGION OF *ORIENT* WHERE THE POPULATION AND CULTURE IS MORE CENTRALIZED, THIS PLANET IS OCCUPIED BY DENSE RAIN FORESTS -- MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR COLONIZATION.

*Trans note: "Cygnus" is the constellation of the Swan.

THE *LA RONGE* AREA IS ESPECIALLY INHOSPITABLE TO HUMANS BECAUSE OF AN UNIDENTIFIED WILD CARNIVOROUS SPECIES THAT HAUNTS THE AREA. EXCEPT FOR THE PHOTURIS HUNTER TRIBE, NO OTHER HUMANS DARE TO TREAD THROUGH *LA RONGE*.



BANG
BANG
slither slithers
SWAP
CRACK
flutter flutter

slither
slither
slither
slither
RUSTLE

Japanese people are usually cremated when they die. But, if possible, I prefer to be buried, eaten by birds, or thrown into the water. Humans eat all the other animal species as they please, so if we do not recycle our dead back into nature... let them become nutrients for soil, plants and food for bugs... it is not only selfish, but also I'm sure God wouldn't be happy about it, either. This philosophy is what gave me the idea for this story.

In the beginning, I went out of my way to ask the editor, "At La La (a Japanese monthly manga magazine), would my story be too grim?" My editor was sympathetic, "Nah, better to be grim from beginning 'til the end rather than be half-ass about it." Therefore, I went ahead and penned it.

(By the way, before you get all confused, I want to make clear that it is illegal to let your dead be eaten by birds or thrown into the water. Therefore... don't do it.)

HER ARM

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT, JACK NIGEL?
JACK NIGEL, ID NUMBER 8095165
TO EXECUTE SPECIAL MISSION NUMBER EIGHT.
WE'VE HAD FOUR GROUPS TODAY AND HE'S THE TWENTIETH VISITOR!
WHAT'S SPECIAL MISSION NUMBER EIGHT?
OH, HE'S A BOUNTY HUNTER!
PLEASE EXIT THROUGH DOOR NUMBER ELEVEN

EH?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? YETI ABDUCTED THE FIRST PRINCESS OF CLEVELAND AND ESCAPED TO THIS PLANET
OH! THAT TOTALLY CUTE PRINCESS?
THE GOVERNMENT OF CLEVELAND COULDN'T MEET THE YETI'S RANSOM DEMANDS, NOR DO THEY HAVE THE NECESSARY MILITARY POWER TO RESCUE HER... SO THEY TURNED TO THE BOUNTY HUNTERS FOR HELP
HUH?!
A HUNDRED BILLION ?!
"WHOEVER SAFELY RESCUES THE FIRST PRINCESS SARAE WILL RECEIVE A CASH REWARD OF A HUNDRED BILLION."

Cantera
La Ronge
LA RONGE OF COURSE!
IDIOT!
STOP YOUR DREAMING DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE YET! IS HIDING?
OH, UM, DOES THAT MEAN ANYONE CAN DO IT? WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS? DOES NATIONALITY MATTER?
RIGHT, THE PHOTURIS HUB
LA RONGE... IS THAT WHERE..?
I WON'T STOP YOU IF YOU THINK ENDING UP AS PHOTURIS PREY IS NO BIG DEAL

BAN-
DAGES
DISIN-
FECTANT
JACK!
WHAT A
COINCIDENCE,
I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
BUMP INTO
YOU HERE. ARE
YOU HERE FOR
THE REWARD
TOO?
JACK, IS
THAT YOU?
IT IS!

THIS GUY TOOK GREAT CARE OF MY BROTHER...
RIGHT?
YOUR FRIEND, FREDDY?
OH, IT'S A LONG STORY...
WAIT A MINUTE!
HEY! JACK! JACK?!
YOU MUST HAVE HEARD... ANDROIDS ONCE SLAUGHTERED THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET
EVER SINCE THEN, THEY HAVE HATED ROBOTS WITH A PASSION
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOUR ROBOT JACK IDENTITY WAS ANNOUNCED?

YOU CAN ALSO FORGET ABOUT RESCUING THE PRINCESS
IF THEY FOUND OUT BEING DEPORTED ISN'T THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN IF YOUR LUCK IS BAD, YOU MIGHT END UP BEING SPARE PARTS IN A JUNKYARD!
!
GRASP

Ahhhhh!
Some-thing fell!
OH I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU OK?
STOP CHASING ME
I REGRET YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH, BUT BACK THEN, I THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS HUMAN, TOO... BECAUSE OF THAT, MY SITUATION AND HIS WERE VERY SIMILAR

WHO IS HE?
FREDDY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY!
IS HE REALLY A ROBOT? HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A REAL HUMAN!
IT'S ONLY RECENTLY THAT HE'S STOPPED.
ASSASSIN FOR HIRE.
YEAH.
BACK THEN,
FIVE YEARS AGO.
HE REALLY BELIEVED THAT HE WAS 100% HUMAN. "PEOPLE" ARE LIKE THAT.
MY BROTHER, A SPY, WAS JAILED IN THE SAME CELL AS HIM.

IF HE HAD KNOWN HE WAS A MACHINE AND DIDN'T NEED THE RATIONS, MY BROTHER WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
WHEN THEY FOUND THEM THREE MONTHS LATER, ONLY THE ROBOT JACK SURVIVED.
MY BROTHER AND JACK SHARED THEIR SPARSE RATIONS, FIGHTING STARVATION.
HE CONSUMED MY BROTHER!
GONE.

WITH THAT KIND OF WOUND, WHERE COULD THAT PERSON HAVE RUN OFF TO?
THE EFFECTS OF THE TEAR GAS SHOULDN'T HAVE DISSIPATED SO FAST.

coo
coo

coo?
coo

flip flop flip
wiggle wiggle wiggle

flick
wiggle
wiggle
wiggle
POP
ROLL
wiggle
grab

RSSH
RSSH
!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE

BANG
SHIT! IT'S TIGHTENING ITS GRIP!

Stab

squirm
squirm
Ugh!

oh!
lick
drip

!
YOU BANDAGED MY ARM, RIGHT?
THEN WE DON'T OWE EACH OTHER ANYTHING NOW
YOU'RE FROM TODAY ...?!

NOT ONLY THE HAIR
IS THAT SUCH A BIG DEAL?
OUR METAMORPHOSIS OCCURS AT NIGHT. IT'S A PHOTURIS TRAIT.
BUT YOUR HAIR!
hm
MUCH MORE MATURE... COMPARED TO THE DAYTIME FORM
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE SAME PERSON THE ENTIRE FEELING IS DIFFERENT
I'M RUBY.
LET ME ASK YOU...
JACK
ARE YOU HERE TO SAVE THE CLEVELAND PRINCESS, TOO? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
ABOUT WHAT?
YOUR WOUND...
WHY ?
BECAUSE I HURT YOU ACCIDENTALLY WITH MY TEAR GAS GUN...
BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED
THAT'S IT?

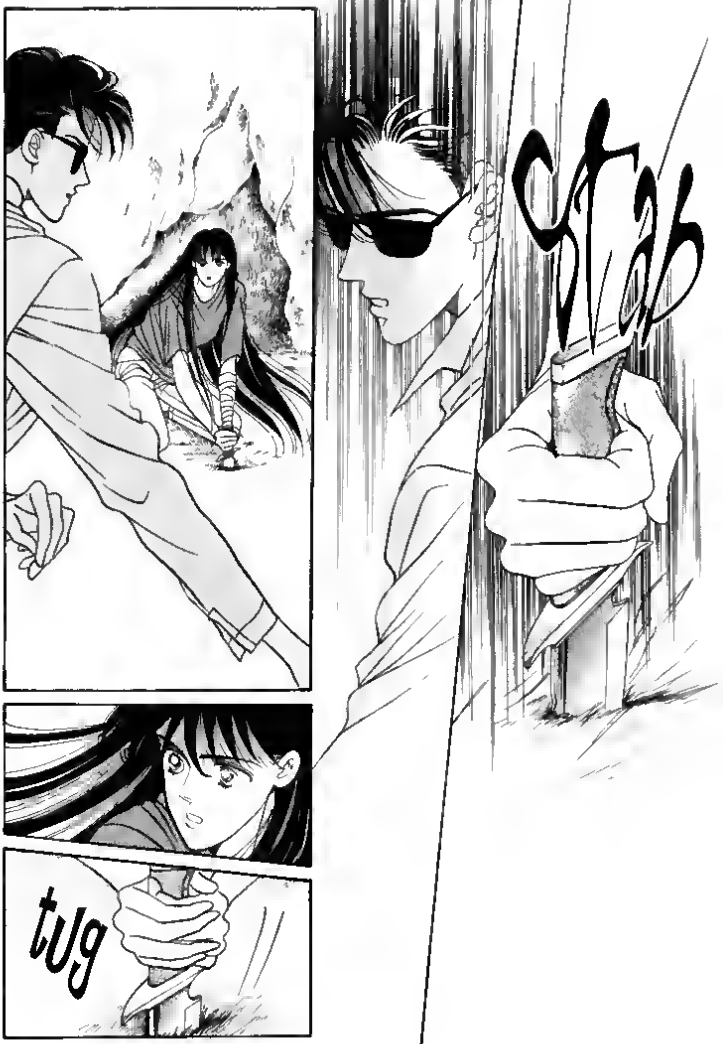
YOU HAVE NO INTEREST IN ME?
WHOA, FREDDY!
CRACKLE
OH, THEY'RE PHOTURIS DON'T GO NEAR THEM
RIGHT OVER THERE!
CHECK IT OUT! HOT BABES! AND THERE RE TWO OF THEM!

PHOTURIS? THE ONES THE RUMORS SAY ARE SCARY? ARE THEY ALL SO BEAUTIFUL?
They're not scary at all!
ONCE IT'S NIGHT TIME...
IN ORDER TO EAT HUMANS,
THEY TURN SEDUCTIVE.
PHOTURIS IS A SPECIES OF FIREFLY
THESE FIREFLIES ARE CALLED THE SEDUCER OF INSECTS
FIREFLY SPECIES USUALLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ITS SEXES BY GIVING OFF CERTAIN TYPES OF LIGHT.
BUT THE FEMALE PHOTURIS FIREFLY WOULD INVADE THE TERRITORY OF OTHER SPECIES, AND MIMIC THE FEMALE LIGHTING PATTERN OF THAT PARTICULAR SPECIES, THUS ATTRACTING THE MALE FIREFLIES

ONCE THE MALE FIREFLY GETS NEAR, THINKING IT HAS FOUND ITS MATE, THE FEMALE PHOTURIS FIREFLY WILL CONSUME IT.
FIRST THEY SUCK OUT THE BODY LIQUID
UNTIL ONLY THE HARDER PARTS LIKE WINGS AND LEGS ARE LEFT.
SO IF YOU ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO THINK "OH THAT PRETTY GIRL IS SMILING AT ME! SHE MUST LIKE ME" THEN YOU'RE MAKING A GRAVE MISTAKE
THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THIS JOB IS NOT FENDING OFF YETI, OR FIGHTING OVER THE REWARD...
BUT THE CANNIBALISTIC PHOTURIS!

BUT...
ISN'T THAT CONSIDERED MURDER? WOULDN'T THE LAW FORBID IT?
WHEN PHOTURIS KILL PEOPLE, IT'S CONSIDERED THE SURVIVAL METHOD
BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET DON'T PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "MURDER" AND "EATEN BY PHOTURIS."
LAWLESS LANDS ARE LIKE THAT.

whoosh
THAT'S RIGHT.
RUSTLE
YOU'RE ASKING TO GET KILLED. AREN'T YOU, JACK?
RUSTLE


STAB
tug

I'M SURPRISED I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEEP ASLEEP
RUBY
YOU'RE USED TO USING YOUR LEFT HAND, BUT IT'S HURT.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
IT'S BETTER NOT TO HUNT WITH IT
click
I BORROWED YOUR GUN, THE WEAPON OF USELESS PEOPLE
I TOOK OUT THE BULLETS
SMACK

AS LONG AS IT'S ALIVE, I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS, I'LL EAT IT!
LET IT GO! EVEN IF YOU KILL ME, YOU CAN'T EAT ME!
RUBY!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ...?
Heh
SPIT
STOP ACTING LIKE THAT

HEY !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
UNDO THIS RIGHT NOW!
UNDO THIS, YOU ASSHOLE!
SLAP
ROLL
UNDO THIS ROPE !
JACK! ARE YOU PLANNING TO JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP?!
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
JACK !

wiggle
wiggle wiggle wiggle
flap flap
wiggle wiggle
Gasp
RISE
wiggle

screech
screech
screech

SWISH
SNAP
FLAP
FLAP

RUBY!

lean
THE HAIR WENT BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS
Screech
Screech
rustle rustle
JUST LIKE A CAT
SHE POSSESSES THE AGILE BEAUTY THAT ONLY WILD ANIMALS HAVE

screech
screech
CRASH
screech
screech
Scree
RUBY
YOUR HUNTING SKILLS ARE NOT BAD
?

toss
TCH!
I BROUGHT MY OWN RATIONS GO AHEAD AND EAT THAT
EH—?
THINK OF IT AS AN APOLOGY FOR HURTING YOUR ARM
BUT...
JACK!
GOOD-BYE
YOU CAUGHT THAT!

IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, JUST GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE.
?
I... I CAN'T! I HAVE YET.
AND... YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS PLANET, ARE YOU?
JACK...?
...HOW THE BIRDS PROPOSE...
THAT'S...
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

ARE THE BIRDS FROM EVERY PLANET THE SAME?
THE MALE GIVES FOOD TO THE FEMALE AS A PROPOSAL.
ONCE THE FEMALE ACCEPTS EVERYTHING IS SETTLED.
COULD IT BE...?
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
SETTLED
"I HAVE YET...!"
"I... I CAN'T!"
JUMP
RUSTLE

ATE THE MEAT!
I... PROPERLY
JACK
RU-
I ACCEPT YOUR PRO-POSAL!
I'LL BEAR YOUR CHIL-DREN!
RUBY!

TO BE HONEST, I WAS IMPRESSED WHEN I FIRST LAID EYES ON YOU,
RUBY!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
I THINK YOU'D BE A GREAT FATHER, TOO!
YOU ARE TALL AND MUSCULAR
Unfortunately, I can't really see your face with those sun glasses on but that's OK!
Jack 188cm
Ruby 158cm
IT'S OK, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN MYSELF
ONCE THEY ARE BORN, YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR OWN PLANET.
PHOTURIS MALES DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BRINGING UP THEIR CHILDREN
MY MOTHER BROUGHT ME UP ALL BY HERSELF
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, RUBY.
YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD ME
I'M REALLY SORRY, I—

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
I LEFT THE MEAL, SO I HAVE TO GO BACK
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROPOSAL. I'M SO HAPPY
...
(NO MATTER HOW WE DO IT, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE DO IT) HAVING CHILDREN IS IMPOSSIBLE
(HMM)
I'M A ROBOT ANYWAY
...

RUBY, WHAT JUST HAPPENED A MINUTE AGO...
RUSTLE
I CAN'T BE CARELESS...
RUBY
BUT OUR CULTURE AND CUSTOMS ARE SO DIFFERENT
TO THEM, DINING IS THE MOST SACRED RITUAL...
RUSTLE
PHOTURIS PRAY FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY ENJOY THEIR MEAL

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THEREFORE, THEY NEVER EAT IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
WATCHING OTHERS EAT IS ALSO CONSIDERED A TABOO
YOU WERE PRAYING FOR A WHILE. DOES IT TAKE SO LONG EVERY TIME?

EVEN WHEN YOU EAT HUMANS?
YES
WHY DO YOU GUYS...
...EAT HUMANS?
HUH?
WHY ?
WHEN IT'S A HUMAN, IT TAKES THE LONGEST
KILL PEOPLE WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN EAT THEM?
WHEN WE EAT HUMANS, YOU CALL US BARBARIC?
BUT THEN, WHY DO YOU...

I ATE MY MOTHER
AND MY MOTHER ATE MY FATHER THEN GAVE BIRTH TO ME...
SO I AM THE RESULT...
OF THE MANY LIVES THEY'VE CONSUMED
I DON'T KNOW WHAT PEOPLE FROM OTHER PLANETS THINK OF US
BUT TO US PHOTURIS EATING HUMANS IS THE MOST SACRED THING

WHEN I EAT SOMEONE, THAT PERSON'S KNOWLEDGE, THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND TRAITS BECOME MY OWN.
I INHERIT THEM
THUS, WHEN IT'S SOMEONE DESIRABLE AND ELITE, EVERYONE WANTS A PIECE, EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE BIT
CONSUMING THE DEAD, AND FIGHTING THE FUTURE WITH THEM INSIDE OF YOU.
HUMANS AND ANIMALS ARE ALIKE IN THIS RESPECT
IN THIS CYCLE OF LIFE, EVERY TIME WE DO IT, WE ARE PURIFIED.
IT'S NOT SCARY TO BE EATEN, IT'S AN HONORABLE THING.
IS THAT YOUR RELIGION?

...I DON'T KNOW, I JUST HOPE THAT...
PRECIOUS LIFE. THE SUM OF SO MANY OTHER LIVES. CAN ONE DAY BE GIVEN TO MY CHILDREN.
MY CHILDREN WILL EAT MY BODY.
I CANNOT DIE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS
THEREFORE
Whoosh
EVERY TIME, WHEN A BIRD IS EATEN, ONE MUST PRAY AND LIVE FOR THE CHICKS THAT LOST THEIR MOTHER BIRD.
"JACK."
WHEN EATING A RABBIT, ONE MUST PRAY FOR THE GRASS AND BRAVELY LIVE ONE'S LIFE
"WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TAKE DANGEROUS JOBS?"

"NO."
"IT'S JUST THAT, BEING A ROBOT I STILL HAVE TO EARN THE BREAD..."
"AND WANT TO REPENT YOUR SINS?"
"IS IT BECAUSE YOU KILLED TOO MANY PEOPLE,"
"EVEN YOU ALWAYS BELIEVED YOU WERE A HUMAN. DON'T YOU WANT TO BE ONE?"
"THAT'S BECAUSE WE PUT *BEING MORE HUMAN THAN HUMANS* IN HIGH REGARD. IT'S FOR THAT REASON WE'VE MADE YOU THIS WAY. IN TIME YOU FEEL HUNGER, YOU SWEAT, AND YOU HURT. ISN'T THAT A BEAUTIFUL THING?"
"EH?"
"DO YOU KNOW?"
"WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOOD CONSUMED BY A ROBOT?"
"FROZEN IN A VACUUM..."
"EVERYTHING THAT GOES INTO MY *STOMACH* GETS GROUND INTO DUST,"

"...THEN EJECTED OUT OF THE BODY"
...
gasp
"IT DOESN'T BECOME A PART OF ME"
"THAT KIND OF..."
"WHEN THE TIME COMES I FEEL HUNGER"
"BUT,"
"MEANINGLESS DAILY CONSUMPTION..."

"DO YOU KNOW HOW TORTUROUS THAT IS?"
WATCH OUT, JACK!
BANG
IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE FOR? IF I FIRED THAT SHOT A SECOND LATER, YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW!
RUSTLE

AH!
RUSTLE
Wheeze
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY AND STAUNCH HIS WOUND!
LEAVE HIM BE, JACK!
RUBY !
EAT
PLEASE

RUBY !
HE'S ABOUT TO DIE ANYWAY
DON'T BOTHER WITH HIM
HE JUST TRIED TO KILL YOU!
HE'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T!
EAT
PLEASE
ME
I BEG OF YOU RUBY
DO YOU KNOW HIM, RUBY?

HE USED THE NAME OF PHOTURIS TO KILL OTHERS AND MAKE MONEY!
HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE LOOPHOLE THAT ALL THE HOMICIDES IN LA RONGE ARE PHOTURIS-RELATED
WAS HIRED BY SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER PLANET TO KILL, AND MANY DIED HE KILLED FOR MONEY, NOT FOR SURVIVAL
THIS GUY,
PLEASE
HE KEPT KILLING ALL THE UNSUSPECTING FOREIGNERS
I'M ABOUT TO DIE
I BEG YOU... EAT ME
EAT YOU?!
WHY WOULD I WANT TO EAT TRASH LIKE YOU?!
YOU'LL DIE WITHOUT EVER BEING CONSUMED BY ANOTHER...
NO ONE WILL EVER WANT TO EAT YOUR FLESH! YOUR SPIRIT WILL ROT FOR ETERNITY!
LET ME TELL YOU, I'M GOING TO THROW YOUR DEAD BODY INTO THE VALLEY OF TREVILLE!

NO! NO, PLEASE, DON'T! ANYTHING BUT THAT...!
YOU DESERVE THIS PUNISHMENT!
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
ROT AND DISAPPEAR INTO DARKNESS, FOREVER!!
"TO US, THAT IS THE MOST TRAGIC ENDING."